Degradation of Historical Monuments of Bihar

1938. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fast degradation of historical monuments and archaeological sites in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any survey to find out the damage to these monuments and archaeological sites;

(c) what is the Central allocation made during 1997 and 1998 for preservation of monuments and archaeological sites and what is the actual amount spent during these years; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The monuments and sites protected by the Archaeological Survey of India in the State of Bihar are in a fairly good state of preservation. The monuments and sites are subject to periodic inspection by concerned officers of the Archaeological Survey of India to assess their conservation requirements which are taken up according to priorities subject to the availability of resources.

(c) and (d) The amount allocated and expenditure incurred during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 for their maintenance and structural conservation of centrally protected monuments in Bihar is:

1996-97	Rs. 87,00,000/-
1997-98	Rs. 1,38,67,300/-

Amartya Sen's Advice on Education

1939. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the advice given by the Noted Noble Laureate, Amartya Sen, to spread education in the country; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Prof. Amartya Sen has been emphasising among other things on the crucial importance of investing in education as integral to development. Cognisant of Prof. Sen's views, the Central Government has been trying to raise the level of funding of education particularly at the primary education level. State Governments are also being closely associated in the process so as to ensure optimum utilisation of physical and financial resources for education.

Staff Strength of B.B. Ambedkar University

1940. DR. (Ms.) P. SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the existing strength of teaching and non-teaching staff, category-wise, in the B.B. Ambedkar University at Lucknow;

(b) what is the strength of students admitted to various courses in the University; and

(c) whether the existing teaching staff is adequate; if not, how the shortage is made up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, the existing